

# Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

**IMPORTANT**  
*Please Read*

Texas • Natural • Resource • Conservation • Commission

## Beneficial Land Use Registration/Permit Fee and Surface Disposal Fee

### What Is This Fee?

The Beneficial Land Use Fee and Surface Disposal Fee are annual fees based on the amounts of sewage/water treatment sludge and domestic septage that was reported as land-applied for the time period from August 1, 1995, through July 31, 1996. The fee also applies to any sewage sludge that was reported as being surface-disposed (i.e., monofilled) or authorized by permit to be beneficially land-applied for the same time period.

The fee is assessed in accordance with 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Section 312.9, and is imposed on each registrant or permittee of a Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) registered or permitted beneficial land use site.

### How Are the Fees Assessed?

The fees are assessed as follows:

- (1) The minimum fee assessed against each registration or permit is \$100, regardless of whether the site is active or inactive during any part of the period from August 1, 1995, through July 31, 1996.
- (2) When water treatment sludge is mixed with a Class A sewage sludge or when sewage sludge that is classified as Class A is destined to be applied to the land for a beneficial use, the fee shall be \$0.20 per dry ton.
- (3) When water treatment sludge is mixed with a Class B sewage sludge or when sewage sludge that is classified as Class B is applied to the land for beneficial use, the fee shall be \$0.75 per dry ton.
- (4) When sewage sludge or water treatment sludge is applied to a site for disposal and the disposal was

authorized by the TNRCC or its predecessor agency prior to October 1, 1995, the fee shall be \$1.25 per dry ton.

- (5) When sewage sludge is applied to a site for disposal or when water treatment sludge is applied to a site for disposal and the activity requires a permit and the disposal is authorized by the TNRCC or its predecessor agency on October 1, 1995, or thereafter, the fee shall be \$1.25 per ton.
- (6) When water treatment sludge is applied to a site for disposal and the activity does not require a permit, the fee shall be \$0.20 per dry ton.
- (7) When sewage sludge is fired in a sewage sludge incinerator, the fee shall be \$1.25 per dry ton.

The TNRCC, using the information obtained from the Annual Summary Report, generates a billing invoice and sends the invoice to each registrant or permittee or its designated representative.

### What Is FY 97?

FY 97 refers to the TNRCC's fiscal year. It is the time period from September 1, 1996, through August 31, 1997. The Beneficial Land Use/Surface Disposal reporting period covered by the FY 97 fee is from August 1, 1995, through July 31, 1996.

### What Information Is Contained in the Description?

The description contains the registered site number or permit number and the fiscal year (REG NUMBER 0000710353 FY:97) on the first line. The second line contains the type of waste billed and amount reported as dry tons (DRYTON) or

gallons (for example, BENEf USE: Class B DRYTON XXXX.XX).

When the volume(s) reported result in a fee of less than \$100.00, the term MINFEE is used. This indicates that the minimum fee of \$100.00 is being assessed.

### **What if My Fee Is Incorrect?**

All fee disputes must be submitted in writing prior to the due date. If we do not receive written notification by the due date, you will incur late fees. Prompt payment must be made for any part of the bill not in dispute. Please include the account number and the TNRCC beneficial land use site registration number or permit number in your correspondence.

### **Why Must I Return the Coupon with My Payment?**

The payment coupon (the top portion of your bill) contains an optical character reader (OCR) line. When we receive your payment, a computer reads your account number from that OCR line. Without the original coupon, we must send your payment to another location for manual processing. That slows our processing of your payment and raises the possibility that your payment may not be credited to the correct account.

### **I Have More than One Account; May I Send One Check for the Total Amount?**

You may send all your payments in one envelope, but please enclose a separate check for each coupon. If the number of checks does not equal the number of coupons, we will have to process your payment manually, and your accounts may not be credited correctly.

### **Where Do I Send My Payments?**

You should return your payment and the payment coupon to the mailing address shown on the back of the coupon. Use the envelope provided for your convenience.

### **When Are the Fees Due?**

The required fee must be paid no later than 30 days following the invoice date. You may pay the bill upon receipt. Failure to submit payment will be sufficient cause for the TNRCC to revoke the registration or permit.

### **How May I Obtain a Copy of the Sludge Fee Program Rules?**

You may obtain copies of 30 TAC, Chapter 312, Subchapter A (General Provisions) by calling the Publications Section at (512) 239-0028 or by faxing your request to (512) 239-4488. If you have a personal computer and a modem, you can dial (512) 239-0700 to reach the TNRCC Online Bulletin Board System (BBS). It contains information about the TNRCC, its rules, and the environmental services the agency provides. You may also obtain information on the TNRCC World-Wide Web page at <http://www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/oprd/rules/indxchap.html>. For technical assistance, call the TNRCC Technical Support Help Desk at (512) 239-0911.

### **Whom May I Contact for More Information?**

For technical information regarding the use and disposal of sewage, you may write, call, or send a fax to:

Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission  
Agriculture and Watershed Management Division  
Sludge and Transporter Review Team, MC-158  
PO Box 13087  
Austin TX 78711-3087  
Phone: (512) 239-4710; fax: (512) 239-4750

For account balance information, contact the Financial Administration Division at the following telephone numbers:

For account names A-K: (512) 239-0366  
For account names L-Z: (512) 239-0192



TEXAS NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
Financial Administration Division  
PO Box 13087  
Austin, Texas 78711-3087